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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,105	01/23/2002	Roland Louis Roberts JR.	014208.1418 (50-01-001)	9454

7590 08/25/2005
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EXAMINER

LANEAU, RONALD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,105

Applicant(s)

ROBERTS, ROLAND LOUIS

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 06/21/05 has been entered. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kane et al (US 2002/0138375) in view of Kahn et al (US 6,401,079 B1).

Kane discloses a method for tracking spend including the steps of: receiving plurality of accounts payable items, each accounts payable item being associated with one of plurality of general ledger codes (pages 1-2, [0028], lines 1-13); associating more than one of the plurality of general ledger codes with an associated one of a plurality of purchasing categories (page 2, [0042], lines 1-17); identifying at least one the plurality of general ledger codes which does not include an associated one of the plurality of purchasing categories (page 2, [0042], lines 7-10); and receiving, from the user, information regarding proper correlation the unallocated accounts payable items within plurality of purchasing categories (page 3, claim 1). Kane further discloses wherein the purchasing categories comprise suppliers associated with the accounts payable items, and further comprising: receiving, from the user, an identification of additional suppliers previously not identified with the accounts payable items; and associating each of the additional suppliers with least one of the spend items (page 3, claim 2), a method wherein the respective

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purchasing category comprises a type of good or services associated with the spend items, corresponds to a business unit (page 2, [0039], lines 1-13), wherein the purchasing categories comprise first purchasing categories and further comprising associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with second purchasing categories and further comprising associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with second and third purchasing categories (page 2, [0042], lines 7-10).

Kane does not explicitly disclose displaying unallocated accounts payable items associated with the at least one of the general ledger codes but Kahn discloses a "General Ledger Codes" interface that is selectable from sub-menu 4020 and enables the Employer to map earning, paid-time-off, deduction, and tax codes to Employed-defined, general ledger naming conventions or codes, the system displays all general ledger codes in a selectable list in the "General Ledger Codes" field 4050 (col. 39, lines 46-51, fig. 25(b)).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the system that displays all general ledger codes for spending items as disclosed by Kahn into the system of Kane because it would provide additional flexibility for users of the system to associate and display each purchase with the associated spend items.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 6/21/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Kane does not include an amount spent and does not disclose or even suggest a plurality of account payable items as the cited portion of Kane disclose nothing

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more than a plurality of general ledger accounts. Contrary to Applicant's arguments, all general ledger accounts usually include keeping track of the amount spent in the account. Furthermore, Applicant argues that neither Kane or Kahn, alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest "displaying unallocated account payable items associated with the at least one of the general ledger codes to a user and receiving information regarding a proper correlation of the unallocated accounts payable items within the plurality of purchasing categories." Contrary to Applicant's arguments, the systems of Kane and Kahn would provide a centralized back-end payroll service wherein all transactions about an account payable including purchase categories would be displayed on a screen display. Kahn further discloses a "General Ledger Codes" interface that is selectable from sub-menu 4020 and enables the Employer to map earning, paid-time-off, deduction, and tax codes to Employed-defined, general ledger naming conventions or codes, the system displays all general ledger codes in a selectable list in the "General Ledger Codes" field 4050 (col. 39, lines 46-51, fig. 25(b)). Applicant's arguments about claims 3, 8, 11, 12, 1-17 and 20 do not stand as these claims are rejected under the same grounds because basically they carry similar limitations of claim 10 which is rejected. Applicant's arguments are deemed unpersuasive, claims 1-20 are finally rejected.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571) 272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RL
Ronald Laneau
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

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[Handwritten signature] 8/22/05
[Handwritten signature] Primary Examiner